

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FBOE-00 A-01 VA-01 ABF-01 /016 W  
-----043309 111226Z /45

R 111135Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9973

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 MANILA 13945

EO:11652: NA  
TAGS: CFED, RP  
SUBJECT: RELOCATION OF VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC

REFS: (A) STATE 170794, (B) MANILA 11824

1. EMBASSY CONCURS IN NEED FOR RELOCATION OF VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC BASED ON:

A. VA REPORT OF DAMAGE CAUSED BY EARTHQUAKE ON MARCH 19, 1977.

B. EVALUATION OF VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC PREPARED BY U.S. NAVAL PUBLIC WORKS CENTER, SUBIC BAY, (OICC), DATED JANUARY 31, 1977, AND EVALUATION CONDUCTED BY FBO REGIONAL ENGINEERING SPECIALIST, ROBERTO LORA, COMPLETED THIS DATE.

2. DEFICIENCIES NOTED IN BOTH OICC AND VA EVALUATIONS FOLLOW:

- "1. TENANTS IN THE BUILDING INCLUDE COMMERCIAL INTERESTS INCONSTRUCTION, ACCOUNTING, REAL ESTATE, LAW, AND INSURANCE. THERE ARE TWO ELEVATORS IN THE BUILDING. ONE ELEVATOR SERVICES THE SECOND THROUGH FIFTH FLOORS WHILE THE OTHER IS ASSIGNED TO THE SIXTH THROUGH EIGHTH FLOORS. THE ONE ELEVATOR WHICH IS AVAILABLE FOR THE OUTPATIENT CLINIC IS DE-

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SIGNED TO CARRY ONLY THIRTEEN PEOPLE, INCLUDING THE OPERATOR. THE ELEVATOR IS USED TO THE MAXIMUM BECAUSE OF THE PATIENTS CIRCULATING FROM THE THIRD TO THE FOURTH AND FIFTH FLOORS. A PATIENT USING A WHEEL CHAIR REQUIRES THE SPACE OF ABOUT THREE TO FOUR PEOPLE WHICH CREATES FURTHER CONGESTION. PATIENTS ON STRETCHERS HAVE TO BE CARRIED UP THREE TO FIVE FLIGHTS OF STAIRS BECAUSE THE ELEVATOR IS TOO SMALL TO AC-

COMMUNAL STRETCHER CASES. IT WAS NOTED THAT THE ELEVATOR WAS NOT EQUIPPED WITH AN ULTRA-VIOLET LAMP SIMILAR TO THOSE INSTALLED IN THE CLINIC TO STERILIZE THE AIR. THIS WOULD BE A REQUIREMENT SINCE THE ELEVATOR IS UTILIZED BY MANY T. B. PATIENTS.

- 2. THE PARKING AREA IS SEVERELY LIMITED. USUALLY, THERE IS NO PARKING AVAILABLE FOR THE DOCTORS OR PATIENTS OF THE CLINIC. A PARKING AREA WITH A LOADING AND UNLOADING AREA IS REQUIRED ESPECIALLY FOR THE PATIENTS REQUIRING WHEEL CHAIRS, AND STRETCHERS. PRESENTLY, PATIENTS ARE UNLOADED ON THE STREET AND ARE REQUIRED TO CROSS A WOODEN WALKWAY TO GET TO THE LOBBY. DURING THE RAINY SEASON, THE WATER LEVEL OFTEN RISES ABOVE THE CURB AND THIS RESULTS IN AN EVEN MORE HAZARDOUS CONDITION.

- 3. IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE, IMMEDIATE AND ORDERLY EVACUATION OF THE PATIENTS ON WHEEL CHAIRS AND CRUTCHES WOULD BE A MAJOR PROBLEM BECAUSE THERE ARE ONLY TWO EXITS ON EACH FLOOR AND THE PATIENTS MUST DESCEND THREE TO FIVE FLIGHTS OF STAIRS. THE STAIRS ARE ONLY THREE FEET WIDE AND WILL RESTRICT FAST EVACUATION.

- 4. THERE IS NO AUTOMATIC FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM. A RECENT EARTHQUAKE DAMAGED THE FIRE PROTECTION PIPES, THEREFORE, NO WATER IS AVAILABLE TO THE EXISTING FIRE HOSES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LOCATED AT THE REAR EXIT OF EACH FLOOR. FIRE EXTINGUISHERS HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO EACH FLOOR; HOWEVER, MANY ROOMS DO NOT HAVE THEM.

- 5. THE REGISTRATION AND WAITING AREA IS NOT ADEQUATE FOR THE NUMBER OF PATIENTS THAT ARE ACCOMMODATED DAILY. THE PATIENTS HAVE TO WAIT IN THE HALLWAY BECAUSE OF THE CROWDED CONDITIONS IN THE WAITING AREA. THE ACTIVE T. B. PATIENTS ARE JAMMED IN THE SAME AREA AS THE OTHER PATIENTS.

- 6. THE CONFIGURATION OF ROOMS FOR EACH FLOOR IS OFFICE ORIENTED AND APPEARS TO BE DESIGNED FOR COMMERCIAL USE RATHER THAN AN OUTPATIENT CLINIC. THEREFORE, ROOMS, TOILETS, HALLWAYS AND JANITORIAL STORAGE AREAS ARE DUPLICATED ON EACH FLOOR. INSTEAD OF HAVING PRIVATE TOILET FACILITIES, THE DOCTORS MUST SHARE THE COMMUNITY FACILITIES WITH THE PATIENTS.

- 7. THE BUILDING DOES NOT HAVE A HOT WATER HEATING SYSTEM. WATER HEATERS WERE INSTALLED BY THE USVA FOR THE OUTPATIENT CLINIC AT THEIR OWN COST.

- 8. THE FIRE HOSE IN ONE OF THE BACK STAIRS IS IN VERY POOR CONDITION. BY TWISTING NEAR THE BASE OF THE HOSE, THE HOSE WAS TORN APART."

3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN BOTH OICC AND FBO EVALUATIONS FOLLOW:  
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- "1. THE EXISTING FACILITY IS CONSIDERED SUBSTANDARD

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FBOE-00 A-01 VA-01 ABF-01 /016 W  
-----043314 111227Z /45  
R 111135Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9974

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FOR USE AS AN OUTPATIENT CLINIC. FURTHER USE OF THE EXISTING FACILITY IS DETRIMENTAL TO THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE US VETERANS AND OTHER AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL WHICH REQUIRED OUTPATIENT SERVICES FROM THE USVA.

- 2. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE OUTPATIENT CLINIC BE RELOCATED. WE CONCUR WITH LOCAL VA PLAN TO UTILIZE NAVY OICC TO ASSIST IN LOCATION, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW FACILITY.

4. IN VIEW OF REQUIREMENT TO MAKE ADVANCE PAYMENT OF AT LEAST ONE YEAR VA MAY REQUEST THAT EMBASSY NEGOTIATE LEASE. EMBASSY CONCURS IN NEGOTIATING 15 YR LEASE SUBJECT TO "THE CONTINUATION OF THE EXERCISE OF AUTHORITY OF THE ADMINISTRATOR OF VETERANS ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS IN THE TERRITORY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND TO THE CONTINUING AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS APPROPRIATED BY THE CONGRE OF THE UNITED STATES." MURPHY

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